

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE****Applicants:** David D. Demarest, et al.**Examiner:** C. Dexter**Serial No.:** To be assigned**Art Unit:** 3724**Filed:** Herewith**Docket:** 8924ZA**For:** SUTURE CUTTING SYSTEM**Dated:** February 5, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

In connection with the above-identified patent application, kindly enter the following preliminary amendment.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

After the TITLE please insert the following:

**--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION:**

The present application is a divisional of copending application Serial Number 08/804,478 filed February 21, 1997, which is a CIP of Serial Number 08/181,595 filed January 13, 1994.--

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Dated: February 5, 2001

  
Mishelle Mustafa

Page 9, line 29, delete "250".

Page 10, line 28, delete "Figure" and insert therefor --Figures--.

Page 15, line 29, delete "left" and insert therefor --right--.

Page 22, line 2, after "opening" insert --80--; and

line 3, after "82" insert --in the direction of arrow--84--.

Page 25, line 25, after "air flow" insert --from vacuum source 250--.

Page 26, line 2, delete "source" and insert therefor --assembly--.

Page 28, line 20, delete "322" and insert therefor --332--.

Page 35, line 20, after "outlet of" insert therefor --the heater casing--.

Page 38, line 1, delete "386" and insert therefor --390--.

Page 39, line 13, delete "386" and insert therefor --390--.

Page 40, line 25, delete "436" and insert therefor --438--.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

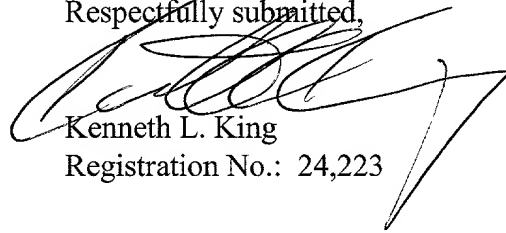
Prior to examination, please cancel claims 1-20.

**REMARKS**

Applicants submit that the foregoing amendment to the specification was made to add a "Cross Reference to Related Applications" section, cancel non-elected claims 1-20, and to conform the specification to that of the parent application. No new matter has been introduced

into the application by way of the present amendment. Therefore, early and favorable consideration of the present application, as amended herein, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Kenneth L. King", written over the typed name and registration number.

Kenneth L. King

Registration No.: 24,223

SCULLY, SCOTT, MURPHY & PRESSER  
400 Garden City Plaza  
Garden City, New York 11530  
(516) 742-4343

TS:cm